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WASHINGTON----Although pressed hard by the Baltimore Elite Giants and New York Cubans, who are breathing on their collective necks, the Newark Eagles regained undisputed lead in the Negro National League second half pennant race over the week end, with a three out of four win record.

The club of the week in the NNL flag chase, however, was the Cubans, who won four in a row, to climb from fourth place to a two-way tie with the Elites for second place. The Elites played only 1500 ball, after sharing the loop lead with the Newark outfit last week, while the Philadelphia Stars, in third place last week, took a complete tumble with four straight losses and dropped to fourth place, and the Homestead Grays won their first two victories of the second half, but couldn't get out of the cellar.

The Cubans launched their drive with a 4-1 victory over the Philly Stars, in Washington, Thursday night, as Barney Morris turned in a 6-hit job, then trimmed the Baltimore Elites, 9-7, Friday, clipped the Black Yankees, Saturday, 4-1, on Bill Tiant's neat hurling stint, and made it two straight over the Yanks Sunday, winning, 6-2, before 15,000 at Yankee Stadium in NYC. Crue and Morris limited the Yanks to six hits, while the Cubans touched Newkirk and Griffith for 11.

The Newark Eagles thumped the Grays, 17-3, at Wilmington, Friday night, eked out a 6-5 win over the Stars Saturday night, then split a twin bill with the Grays in Washington Sunday.

Red Fields pitched six-hit ball for the Grays to win, 3-0, and give the Eagles their first shutout of the season, but the Birds nosed out the Grays, 4-3, in the nightcap. Parks' double and Wilks' single accounted for the winning Eagles' tally in the overtime eighth, after the Grays had knotted the score at 3-all in the seventh. Both games were played under protest because of the non-appearance of an official league umpire.

After losing to the Cubans and bowing to the Grays, 6-5, Saturday night, the Baltimore Elites roared back into contention on Sunday with a twin triumph over the faltering Philadelphia Stars. Sam Figerua's sterling two-hit hurling won the first game, 6-0, over Barney Brown, ace southpaw, then the Elites, behind Jones Gaines, pounded out a 16-3 victory.

Thus, with three weeks of the second half race gone, it is still a close race with the Eagles, ~~Sixxxxxxx~~ Cubans and Elites in the thick of the battle and a chance for either of the other three clubs, Stars, Yankees and Grays to move into the fight with a win streak of four to five games.